



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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HETEROCODON RARIFLORUM **WESTERN PEARL-FLOWER**

Western Pearl-flower is a slender annual with lax to erect, simple or sparingly branched stems that are 5-30 cm tall. The broadly spade-shaped, alternate leaves are up to 1 cm long, have toothed margins, and tend to clasp the stem. The foliage is glabrous, or there may be some short, stiff hairs on the stems and leaf margins. The single flowers are sessile in the axils of leaf-like bracts. Each flower has a calyx that is 5-lobed, partly united, and spreading-hairy. The blue, 5-lobed corolla is 3-6 mm long. Flowers on the lower stem set seed without opening. The fruit is a short, broad capsule with numerous tiny seeds. Flowering June-July, fruiting June-August.

TRIODANIS PERFOLIATA is similar, but it has a glabrous calyx, a distinct corolla tube with a deeply-lobed corolla, and occurs in drier habitats.